

Received
14 NOV 2014
[Signature]

November 7, 2014

Reference Number: 2014-G-0150

Dennis R. Young
1330 Ravenswood Drive SE
Airdrie, Alberta
T4A 0P8

Dear Mr. Young:

Re: *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*
Request for Access to General Information

Your request for access to general information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act* was received by Executive Council on September 9, 2014.

Specifically, you requested access to the following records:

"Reference is being made to the forced entries, unwarranted searches and seizures of firearms, ammunition, magazines, bows, knives, etc. etc. in High River, Alberta that occurred between June 20, 2013 and July 13, 2013.

Please provide: (1) Copies of all meeting minutes, documents, reports and correspondence regarding the Provincial Declaration of Emergency that was declared for High River on or about June 28, 2013; (2) Copies of all meeting minutes the Premier attended concerning the High River forced entries, searches, seizures, damage claims and compensation; and (3) Copies of all correspondence, letters, e-mails, reports, advice, legal opinions, sent to the Premier and copies of all replies sent by the Premier or on the Premier's behalf. Note: In the event, a standard reply was sent to one or more correspondents, one copy of Minister's standard reply will suffice,"

for the time period of June 20, 2013 to September 2, 2014.

Please note that nothing in this correspondence (or its attachments) constitutes a waiver of any privilege.

We are pleased to provide access to the records you requested; copies of 67 records are enclosed. There were a total of 120 records in the files you requested.

As indicated to you in our October 8th correspondence, we contacted a number of affected parties, as required under section 30 of the *FOIP Act*, to provide them with an opportunity to consent or to make representations explaining as to why disclosure would harm their business or personal interests. Where those third parties provided consent, we are releasing the records. We are withholding records in cases where the third parties either refused consent to release or did not respond to our request.

Some of the records located contain information that is withheld from disclosure under the *FOIP Act*. We have severed (removed) the excepted information so that we could disclose the remaining information in the records. We have attached a detailed list that outlines the specific sections of the *FOIP Act* that were applied to the records related to your request. We have also included copies of the relevant sections of the *FOIP Act* to explain why information was withheld.

Please be advised that non-responsive and duplicate information, where possible, have been removed from this package.

If you feel that your request has not been answered completely or you require further clarification, please contact Chris Mack, Senior FOIP Advisor, at 780-427-9256.

Please note that under section 65 of the *FOIP Act*, you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta to review our foregoing response to your request. To request a review, you must complete and deliver a *Request for Review* form within 60 days from the date of this notice to:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
#410, 9925 – 109 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2J8

The form is available under the Resources tab on the Commissioner's website www.oipc.ab.ca or you can call 1-888-878-4044 (in Edmonton, call 780-422-6860) to request a copy of the form.

If you wish to request a review, please provide the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) with the following information:

1. A copy of this letter.
2. A copy of your original request form that you sent to Executive Council.
3. A completed OIPC Request for Review Form.

Sincerely,



 Karen Lindgren
FOIP Coordinator
Executive Council

Enclosures: Record package – 67 pages
Appendix A – List of exemptions applied to records
Sections 4 and 17 of the *FOIP Act*

APPENDIX A

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150 – List of exceptions or exemptions applied to records –

The following pages are excepted or exempted in their entirety under sections of the FOIP Act:

PAGES	SECTIONS OF THE ACT APPLIED
1, 4, 12-15, 18, 23-29, 37	17(1)
38-42	4(1)(q)
43-52, 56, 58-61, 63-67	17(1)
102-104	4(1)(q)
107, 110-118	17(1)

The following pages contain partial severing of information excepted or exempted under sections of the *FOIP Act*:

PAGES	SECTIONS OF THE ACT APPLIED
2, 9-10, 62, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 108, 119	17(1)

Page 1 redacted for the following reason:

17(1)



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada

SEP 27 2013

17(1)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Dear 17(1):

Thank you for your June 30, 2013, email in which you raise concerns about the "Calgary RCMP" confiscating firearms.

In Alberta, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), headquartered in Edmonton, provide a wide range of duties to meet federal, provincial, municipal and First Nations' policing mandates. There are 112 detachments throughout the province with more than 2,500 regular members who work under provincial and municipal contracts to meet the policing needs of communities throughout Alberta. The RCMP emergency response efforts in southern Alberta involved the provincial police service sending temporary member resources from across Alberta. Calgary has its own municipal police service (Calgary Police Service); the RCMP does not operate a regular detachment out of the City of Calgary.

When a local state of emergency is declared, such as in the Town of High River, police have authority to take extraordinary measures such as entering homes to ensure they are secure, or to see if someone needs to be evacuated. During the course of this unprecedented state of emergency, when the RCMP, as part of search and rescue efforts, came across unsecured firearms in plain view, they stored them for future return to the lawful owners. Safeguarding the interests of firearms' owners from potential looting was also a consideration.

Many citizens of Alberta have voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under these circumstances. On June 27, 2013, Honourable Jonathan Denis, Minister of Justice and Solicitor General, wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to confirm that these firearms were actually stored and not confiscated or seized, that they had a plan in place to communicate to Albertans the process for them to retrieve their lawful property, and that there would be a process if proof of ownership was destroyed in the flood.

... / 2

- 2 -

The RCMP are in contact with affected parties to coordinate and ensure the safe return of all firearms to their lawful owners and have, in fact, already begun returning them. Some residents have opted to leave their firearms in secure storage with the RCMP while they deal with the devastation to their homes.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an independent agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is not part of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizens results from this independent review.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Redford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alison Redford, QC

cc: Honourable Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister of Justice and Solicitor General

Ian McPhail, QC
Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP

Bridget A. Pastoor, MLA
Lethbridge-East

Page 4 redacted for the following reason:

17(1)

Office of the Premier

From: Garry Naylor [northernnaylor@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2013 10:35 PM
To: Office of the Premier
Cc: brian.storseth@parl.gc.ca; Tim Grant; highwood@assembly.ab.ca; dale.mcgowan@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
Subject: RCMP actions in High River

Ms Redford,

Ma'am, first off I want to thank you for your efforts in leading and supporting Albertans in this crisis. I'm certain that the many displaced, distraught people are comforted by your promises of help. Well done.

I have been following the situation in High River with some concern. As a retired Canadian Military Emergency Manager, Canadian citizen, and Albertan land owner I have grave concerns with the course of action being followed in High River in response to the disaster situation. I also realise that there is always two sides to every story, so am cautiously optimistic that the truth will eventually be told and all will pan out well.

I recently read about RCMP officials confiscating firearms from homes that residents were forced to flee. Story is here:

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/alberta/Hell+Residents+angry+RCMP+seize+guns+from+High+River+homes/8588851/story.html>

Again, there is always two sides to every story, but I have to tell you the credibility of the elected officials, and the government agencies that are supporting them is looking more and more dubious. Parallels are being drawn with the heavy handed response in New Orleans with hurricane Katrina- and if true this is certainly not in the best interest of Canadians.

I request that you have your staff look into the situation immediately, and either ease our concerns or, if the story (above, link) is true direct the RCMP to start acting in the best interest of Canadians and follow the laws of Canada.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Garry Naylor
North of Ardmore, AB
780-573-7658

Sq#	70814
Issues/ Action:	MHA
Rec'd	JUN 28 2013
C	Prev
Subject(s)	13.03
Logged to	

'Hell to pay:' Residents angry as RCMP seize guns from High River homes (with video)

‘It’s just like Nazi Germany,’ says resident

BY TREVOR HOWELL, CALGARY HERALD JUNE 28, 2013 9:08 AM

× Big4motors



Evacuees confronted the RCMP on the northwest corner of town in a bid to enter the Town of High River on Thursday, June 27th 2013, one week after the Highwood River Flooded leaving the whole town empty. RCMP laid a spike belt down across the road to prevent them from travelling down it.

Photograph by: Lorraine Hjalte, Calgary Herald

HIGH RIVER — RCMP revealed Thursday that officers have seized a "substantial amount" of firearms from homes in the evacuated town of High River.

"We just want to make sure that all of those things are in a spot that we control, simply because of what they are," said Sgt. Brian Topham.

"People have a significant amount of money invested in firearms ... so we put them in a place that we control and that they're safe."

That news didn't sit well with a crowd of frustrated residents who had planned to breach a police checkpoint northwest of the town as an evacuation order stretched into its eighth day.

"I find that absolutely incredible that they have the right to go into a person's belongings out of their home," said resident Brenda Lackey, after learning Mounties have been taking residents' guns. "When people find out about this there's going to be untold hell to pay."

See photos from the scene.

About 30 RCMP officers set up a blockade at the checkpoint, preventing 50 residents from walking into the town. Dozens more police cars, lights on, could be seen lining streets in the town on standby.

Officers laid down a spike belt to stop anyone from attempting to drive past the blockade. That action sent the crowd of residents into a rage.

"What's next? Tear gas?" shouted one resident.

"It's just like Nazi Germany, just taking orders," shouted another.

"This is the reason the U.S. has the right to bear arms," said Charles Timpano, pointing to the group of Mounties.

Officers were ordered to fall back about an hour into the standoff in order to diffuse the situation and listen to residents' concerns.

"We don't want our town to turn into another New Orleans," said resident Jeff Langford. "The longer that the water stays in our houses the worse it's going to be. We'll either be bulldozing them or burning them down because we've got an incompetent government."

Langford blasted High River Mayor Emile Blokland over comments made Wednesday in which Blokland said residents will be allowed to return after businesses, such as hardware and drug stores, are opened.

"It was ridiculous," said Langford. "I think he's a puppet on a string."

Langford said Premier Redford should come to High River to address residents' concerns and provide information.

"This is at the highest tension," he said. "What's going to happen next is that people are just going to be walking across these fields, and I don't care if they put hundreds of thousand of police officers there, they're not going to stop from getting in."

Sgt. Topham said he didn't know when residents would be allowed to return to their homes. "People much higher up are going to make those decisions," he said.

He did confirm that officer relied on forced entry to get into numerous houses during the early stages of the flood because of an "urgent need", said Topham.

Police are no longer forcing themselves into homes and the residences that were forced open will be secured, he said.

Topham said the confiscated firearms have been inventoried and are secured at an RCMP detachment. He was not at liberty to say how many firearms had been confiscated.

"We have seized a large quantity of firearms simply because they were left by residents in their places," said Topham.

The guns will be returned to owners after residents are allowed back in town and they provide proof of ownership, Topham added.

Residents promised to returned to the checkpoint at noon every day until they are allowed to return to their homes.

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[Next](#)



Evacuees confronted the RCMP on the northwest corner of town in a bid to enter the Town of High River on Thursday, June 27th 2013, one week after the Highwood River Flooded leaving the whole town empty. RCMP laid a spike belt down across the road to prevent them from travelling down it.

Photograph by: Lorraine Hjalte, Calgary Herald



Office of the Premier

From: Calgary Elbow [Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca]
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2013 1:45 PM
To: Office of the Premier
Subject: FW: Gun seizures in High River Alberta

Sq#	10825
Issues/ Action:	MHA
Rev'd	JUN 28 2013
C	Prev
Subject(s)	13,03
Logged to	

-----Original Message-----

From: 17(1)
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2013 11:47 AM
To: stephen.harper@parl.gc.ca; Jim.Hillyer@parl.gc.ca; peter.mackay@parl.gc.ca; vic.toews@parl.gc.ca; Calgary Elbow; Highwood; Lethbridge East
Subject: Gun seizures in High River Alberta

Dear Prime Minister Harper, Premier Redford and relevant honourable MP's and MLA's:

As a resident of 17(1) Alberta, a long time PC supporter both Provincially and Federally, and a taxpaying Canadian I have to admit that it pains me greatly to have to even write this letter.

I have heard via the media several reports of a unwarranted seizure of firearms in the recently flooded community of High River Alberta.

I do not believe I am alone in my appreciation for the work done on behalf of Canadians by all of the public servants in aiding the community of High River in this time of need. But I also believe that during these situations of stress and tribulations for affected Albertans, the responsibility of government of remain vigilant and considerate of peoples personal rights an property is still paramount.

Public opinion would likely support a effort to look to houses to ensure public safety of any occupants, but I think the same public would be very adamant in their opposition to the seizure of personal property. Particularly when optics suggest that it is done under the auspice of public safety. This is not New Orleans - we see significant differences in how well we treat each other every day.

There are several things that come to mind. The first is to what specific rationale is this being carried out (especially given the heightened demand for resources considering there is a unprecedented natural disaster)?

Also - who specifically gave the orders for this type of activity?

In the interest of public safety has several specific fatal flaws in the logic. If the reports are true, some firearms were properly stored with trigger locks in a locked domicile. The addition of flood water would actually make them less obtainable, unless of course there is a distinct desire for them to be taken.

How were these houses chosen? Was there information (eg. PAL/POL information) used to isolate specific target homes to be searched?

One report suggested the RCMP seized these firearms because of their value. Were other valuables seized?

Another suggests it was for public safety. Were other threats to public safety seized?

I would hope that as this situation unfolds, that the truth of the whole situation comes to the forefront.

Firearms owners are not criminals by default. It is time for the fear and persecution towards gun owners (and all Canadians) to stop. Canadians deserve better. Alberta deserves better and the affected folks of High River deserve better.

Please right this injustice and restore some faith in our police, the military and Government. The nation is watching.

17(1)

17(1)

Office of the Premier

AR: 70851

From: Calgary Elbow [Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, July 02, 2013 9:53 AM
To: Office of the Premier
Subject: FW: Website - Request for Information

Sq#	
Issues/ Action:	MHA
Rcvd	JUL 02 2013
C	Prev
Subject(s)	1308
Logged to	

-----Original Message-----

From: james.wohl@explornet.com [mailto:james.wohl@explornet.com]
Sent: Friday, June 28, 2013 9:34 PM
To: Calgary Elbow
Subject: Website - Request for Information

Site Supervisor,

The following request was generated on the mypcmla.ca | Alison Redford site.

From: James Wohl
Email: james.wohl@explornet.com
Phone: T0C 1Z0

Comments:

"Hello Ms. Redford

The recent RCMP actions in High River to enter and take guns from rapidly evacuated homes shows an almost unbelievable lack of judgement. Their job is protect the homes, not loot them.

Those who made this decision in the RCMP should get the boot and a public call for this by you would win many kudos in Alberta.

For your consideration. Thank you.

James Wohl
Millet, Alberta.
"

Brought to you by the mypcmla.ca | Alison Redford.
<http://redford.mypcmla.ca>

Pages 12 through 15 redacted for the following reasons:

17(1)

Office of the Premier

From: PAB WebEditor
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 8:36 PM
To: Office of the Premier
Subject: Premiers Page: Staying in Touch

-- Comments From: John Sims --

Premier Redford, I was disappointed with your comments jumping in bed with the RCMP over the seizure (theft) of the guns belonging to the citizens of High River. Another belidgerant act by the RCMP. You show, as the RCMP no compassion for the people there with your comments.

John Sims

REPLY TO:
John Sims
P.O. Box 592 Stn. Main
Grande Prairie, Alberta
T8V3A8
simsjohn@telus.net

Sq#	
Issues/ Action:	MHA
Rcvd	JUL 02 2013
C	Prev
Subject(s)	B, D3
Logged to	

Office of the Premier

From: Calgary Elbow [Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, July 02, 2013 11:16 AM
To: Office of the Premier
Subject: FW: gun seizure

-----Original Message-----

From: Laurel Roberts [<mailto:lefr@efirehose.net>]
Sent: Saturday, June 29, 2013 7:28 AM
To: Prime Minister/Premier ministre; Calgary Elbow; Danielle Smith; kevin sorenson; Bruce; vic.toews@parl.gc.ca
Subject: gun seizure

The seizure of firearms in High River suggests an appalling and dangerous loss of civil liberty in Canada. I want to state my objection and assure you that any of you who condone this illegal RCMP search and seizure have lost my respect and trust, and cannot expect my vote. This is not the Canada I know and love.
Laurel E. Roberts

Sq#	
Issues/ Action:	MHA
Rcvd	JUL 02 2013
C	Prev
Subject(s)	13,05
Logged to	

Page 18 redacted for the following reason:

17(1)

Office of the Premier

From: Calgary Elbow [Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca]
Sent: Tuesday, July 02, 2013 10:56 AM
To: Office of the Premier
Subject: FW: Comment

Importance: High

From: Wally Nussbaumer [mailto:wsn@telus.net]
Sent: Sunday, June 30, 2013 6:27 PM
To: Calgary Elbow
Subject: Comment
Importance: High

184 MacEwan Meadow Way NW
Calgary, Alberta T3K 3J2

30 June 2013

Premier Alison Redford, QC (PC)
6, 22 Richard Way SW
Calgary, AB
Canada T3E 7M9

Ms Redford

I am extremely disappointed and annoyed with your response to the situation that took place in High River. Residents were told to leave their homes and were not given an option. They were also advised that their homes and belongings would be safe from looters and vandalism because the RCMP and Military would be patrolling the area to prevent such occurrences. Albertans were shocked to discover that the RCMP were allowed to "loot" these homes in the alleged excuse of public safety. Unacceptable! Nowhere has a police force taken such drastic steps or been allowed to do so. Calgary City Police did not, RCMP in Bragg Creek did not nor did they break into homes in Lethbridge, Medicine or other flooded areas where residents were removed.

This activity was illegal and should not be tolerated to happen in this country. Two glaring questions come to mind, first: how did the RCMP know where to look and second what else did they steal while in the homes.

You as Premier should be demanding answers and NOT supporting these tactics.

Such activities are unacceptable and should bring immediate corrective action. Failure to respond will have long reaching consequences.

Yours truly

W. Nussbaumer
403-295-0560

Sq#	
Issues/ Action	MHA
Rcvd	JUL 02 2013
C	Prev
Subject(s)	13,05
Logged to	

Office of the Premier

From: PAB WebEditor
Sent: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 10:08 PM
To: Office of the Premier
Subject: Premiers Page: Staying in Touch

-- Comments From: Ken Zasada --

First of all I hope that my rights as a Canadian citizen will not be compromised by writing this letter as the rights of the citizens of High River were when the RCMP illegally entered citizens homes and confiscated supposedly illegally stored firearms. As premier you should have had more knowledge of the laws of this country before going on camera and supporting what is turning out to be another RCMP gaff. As premier of Alberta I would have thought you would have put the rights of the people you represent above all else. Supporting the actions of the RCMP before your self or your staff researched the incident is not what I would expect from the leader of our province. Maybe re addressing this incident in a more positive light will instill into all Albertans and Canadians that above all ,you and your office put our rights and freedoms first. Thank you for reading this and doing the right thing.

REPLY TO:
Ken Zasada
4401 -52 ave
Beaumont, AB
T4X 1J1
ameriski9@yahoo.cm

Sq#	70876
Issues/ Action:	MHA
Rcvd	JUL 04 2013
C	Prev
Subject(s)	08,13
Report to	



ALBERTA
JUSTICE AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

*Office of the Minister
MLA, Calgary-Acadia*

AR 3763

September 10, 2013

Mr. Ken Zasada
4401 - 52 Avenue
Beaumont, AB T4X 1J1

Dear Mr. Zasada:

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, has forwarded me a copy of your July 3, 2013 e-mail regarding your concerns about the actions of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) arising out of their role in the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your concerns and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

When a local state of emergency is declared, such as in the Town of High River, police have authority to take extraordinary measures such as entering homes to ensure they are secure, or to see if someone needs to be evacuated. During the course of this unprecedented state of emergency, when the RCMP as part of search and rescue efforts, came across unsecured firearms in plain view, they stored them for future return to the lawful owners. Safeguarding the interests of firearms' owners from potential looting was also a consideration.

Many citizens of Alberta have voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under these circumstances. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to confirm that these firearms were actually stored and not confiscated or seized, that they had a plan in place to communicate to Albertans the process for them to retrieve their lawful property, and that there would be a process if proof of ownership was destroyed in the flood.

The RCMP subsequently issued communication releases regarding the process for the return of those stored firearms. They are in contact with affected parties to coordinate and ensure the safe return of all firearms to their lawful owners and have, in fact, already begun returning them. Some residents have opted to leave their firearms in secure storage with the RCMP while they deal with the devastation to their homes.

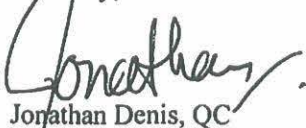
- 2 -

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an independent agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is not part of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory requirements.

The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizens results from this independent review.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Pages 23 through 29 redacted for the following reasons:

17(1)

71703

Office of the Premier

From: Calgary Elbow [Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, September 04, 2013 11:32 AM
To: Office of the Premier
Subject: FW: Your comments re gun seizure in High River
Attachments: image004.jpg; image005.gif; image006.gif

Sq#	
Issues/ Action:	MHA
Rcvd SEP 04 2013	
C	Prev
Subject(s) 13	
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From: Gladys Wachowich [mailto:gwacowic@interbaun.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 04, 2013 11:28 AM
To: Calgary Elbow
Subject: RE: Your comments re gun seizure in High River



I am not a constituent of Calgary-Elbow. After a lengthy search of the government site to find a contact email for the Premiers Office and finding none... I opted to send to the only address I could find because I am very troubled by the Big Brother mentality at work in this matter.

From: Calgary Elbow [mailto:Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca]
Sent: September 4, 2013 11:23 AM
To: Gladys Wachowich
Subject: RE: Your comments re gun seizure in High River

Good Morning Gladys,

Thank you for contacting the Calgary-Elbow constituency office. We would like to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence and thank you for taking the time to write. Your comments are invaluable to MLA Alison Redford. In order to determine if you are a constituent of Calgary-Elbow, or if this letter was intended for the Premier's office, could you provide us with your address and postal code?

Kind Regards,

Constituency Office of Hon. Alison Redford, QC - MLA, Calgary-Elbow
 #6, 22 Richard Way SW | Calgary, AB T3E 7M9
 T: 1.403.252.0346 | F: 1.403.252.0520
 E: calgary.elbow@assembly.ab.ca |  

Please sign up for the Calgary-Elbow monthly e-newsletter, by visiting:
<http://redford.mypcmla.ca/>

From: Gladys Wachowich [mailto:gwacowic@interbaun.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 04, 2013 11:17 AM
To: Calgary Elbow
Subject: Your comments re gun seizure in High River

Dear Ms Redford

I continue to be appalled by your comments regarding the gun seizure in High River. During a time of acute emergency the RCMP had nothing better to do than look for firearms and collect them? Really? And now for you to defend their actions is truly a disservice to those of us who have supported you. Instead of cat fighting with Ms Smith... maybe you could start to listen to your supporters.... As I have been for many years. Please don't continue to push me to have another look at the Wild Rose party. Defend our rights to peaceful ownership of property we

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

choose to own. Just because it is not the property you choose to own doesn't make it any less our personal property. How many diamond rings, or Rolex watches did the boys pick up while they were securing property?

Long time PC supporter
Gladys Wachowich

71705

Office of the Premier

From: Dick Madden [MaddenD@teslaexploration.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2013 8:27 PM
To: Office of the Premier
Cc: Rick Fraser; highwood@assembly.ab.ca; Dick Madden
Subject: Comments in Lethbridge Herald
Attachments: B&E RCMP

Cpt	
Issues/	LHA
Action:	
Rcvd SEP 04 2013	
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Subject(s)	B
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Premier

I have just read your comments online regarding being "unaware of property damage" by the RCMP in High River. Find enclosed pictures of the aftermath of their mess and the B&E damage. There are lots more pictures available if you are interested in what really happened. I DO plan on attending the meeting, maybe you should as well to get the truth first hand.

Or maybe you could just send Mr Fraser, seeing he is so good at communicating with us lowly townfolk. (I have emailed him twice Aug 8th and 26th without any response-communication is key)

Regards

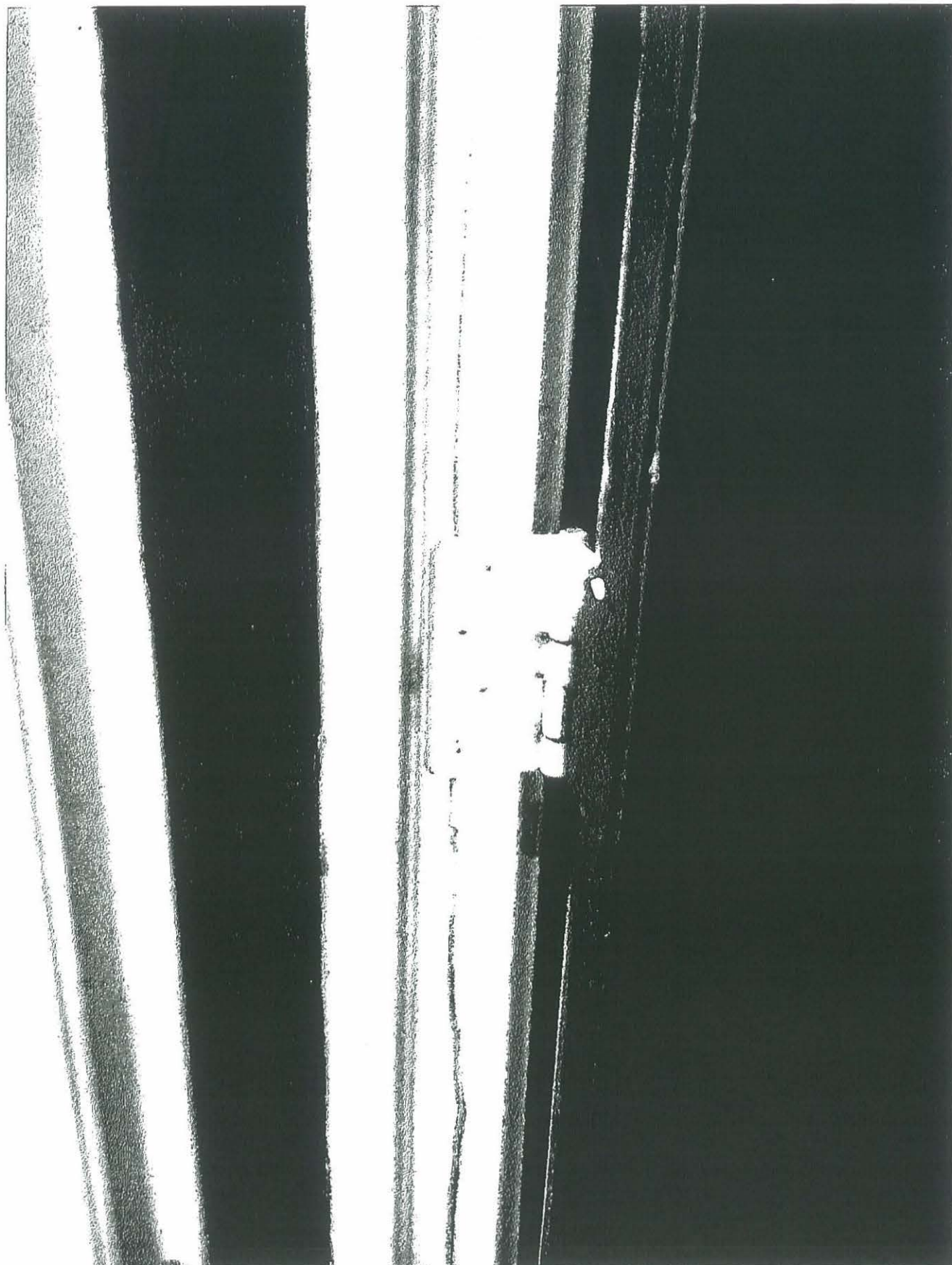
Richard R Madden

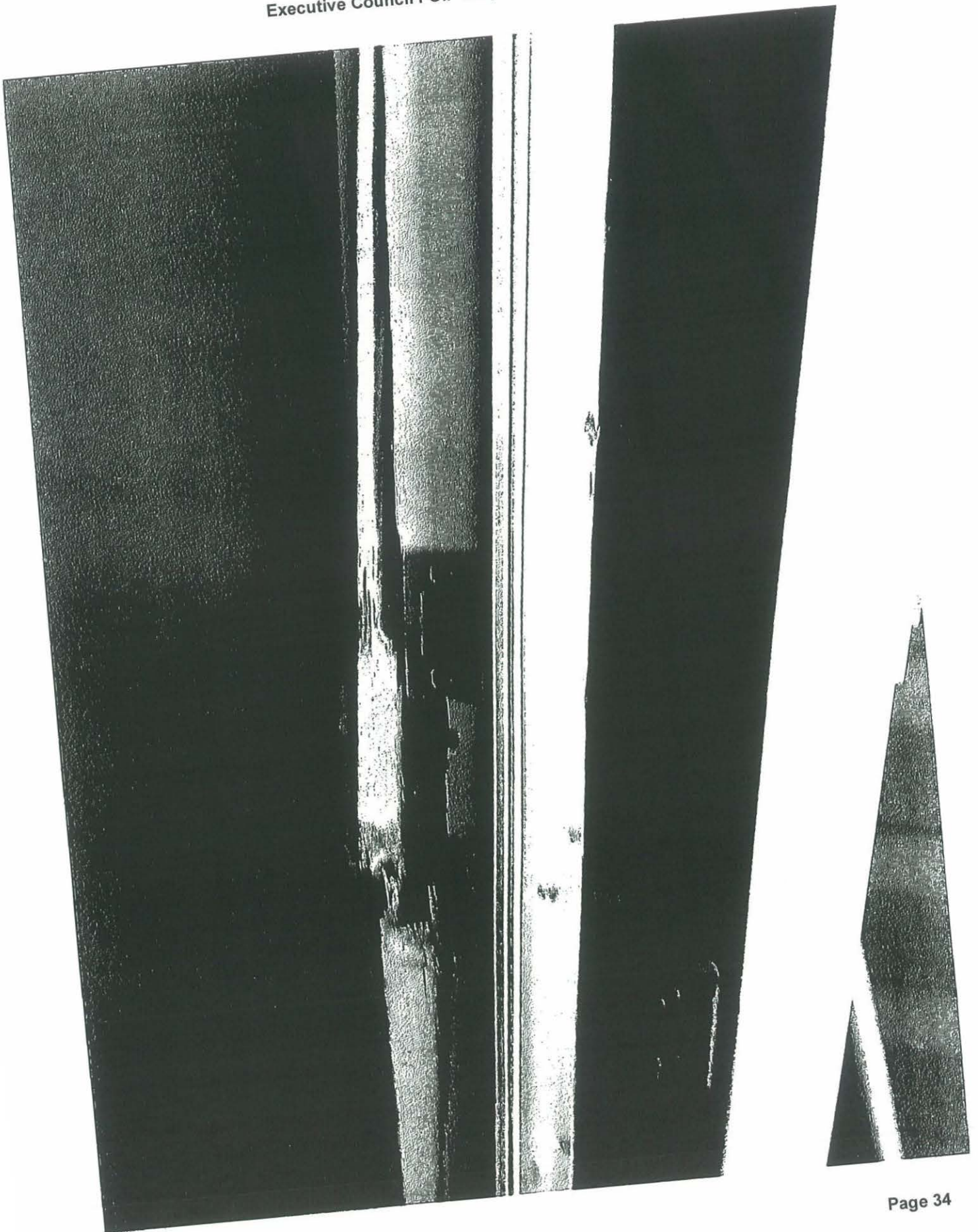
12 Mist Road SW

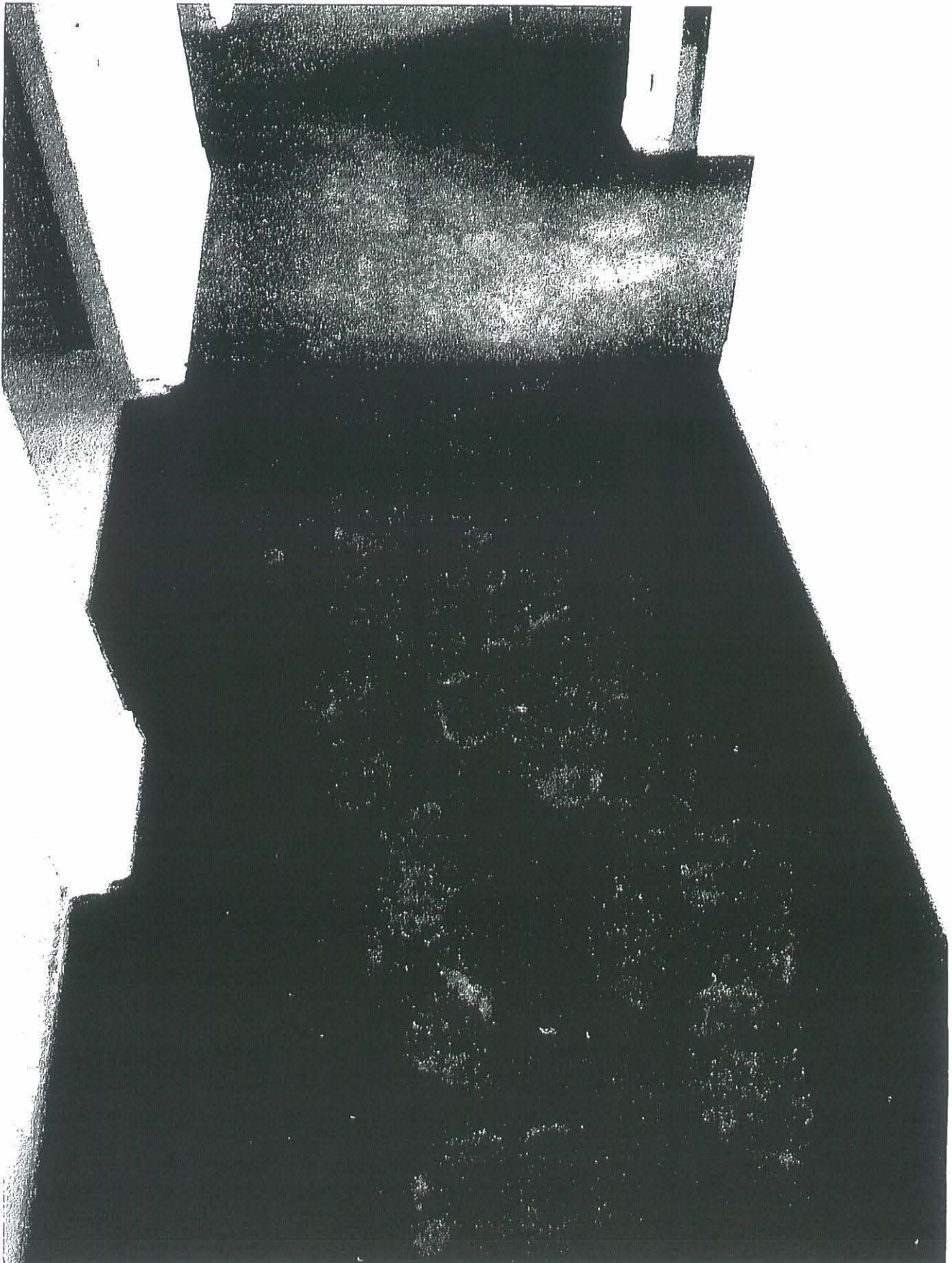
High River, AB T1V 1C4

Cell 403 899 2506

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Pages 37 through 52 redacted for the following reasons:

17(1)
4(1)(q)

717 88

Office of the Premier

From: Calgary Elbow [Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca]
Sent: Monday, September 09, 2013 9:17 AM
To: Office of the Premier
Subject: FW: High River gun seizures

Sq#	
Issues/ Action:	MHA
Rcvd	SEP 09 2013
C	Prev
Subject(s)	13.03
Logged to	

From: Betty Jane Louth [mailto:bj@highriverdrivingschool.net]
Sent: Saturday, September 07, 2013 9:21 AM
To: Battle River-Wainwright; Calgary Elbow
Subject: High River gun seizures

A quick email to voice disgust, and disappointment. After reading several news articles regarding your opinion of Danielle Smith, High River, and the gun seizures, I would like to inform that this 4th generation Albertans will not be voting conservative in the future. I find, as per usual, you are misinformed and out of touch. People homes were violated - doors were kicked in, guns were damaged. Please note that Don and Jane White are my parents, They had their door kicked in twice, guns confiscated and personal property rifled through. I have many friends and family in High River who have put up with the same treatment. To swear and call Danielle Smith the problem is revolting and shows a lack of empathy and understanding. People in High River feel that she is all we have to represent our concerns. Alison Redford was quoted in the Herald that the there was no damage - yes, there was.

Right from the Herald-

Redford and her crew jump to the RCMP's defence with rare ferocity.

"I am sick and tired of people like her going around trying to blame people when we're still trying to rebuild the community," Municipal Affairs Minister Doug Griffiths said of Smith on Thursday.

"It's f---ing embarrassing," added the former teacher, who definitely included the missing letters in his vivid contribution to civics.

Redford herself started the latest round on Tuesday, when she ripped Smith for being too hard on the Mounties.

"We now have the leader of the Opposition saying that the RCMP destroyed property during what was the worst natural disaster in Alberta's history. I don't buy that."

Now we know where we sit as far the provincial progressive conservative government is concerned. What is embarrassing is that our government does not have a clue!!!! Again from the Herald:

The premier seems to hold the Mounties entirely blameless.

"We have a federal force that went above and beyond to secure property," she said, as if that's the end of it.

Please note this will not be forgotten - they did not secure property, doors were left wide open after kicking them in - the guns were the only priority. I had to give my neighbor a door so that he could secure is home after the Mounties kick in his door. My cousin is using a bungee cord to secure her home . She is a single parent with three children. Please quit calling us liars, and belittling our intelligence. Note - the next time I vote - I do every election- you will be receiving a big fat ****you. Please beware I am not the only one who feels this way. It seems to me that the true lairs are the provincial

2

SEP 0 9 2013
From
To
Subject
Logged in
Version
Location
SEP 0 9 2013

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

government and the RCMP. I would also like to point out that the "federal force" was ordered by the PMO to return the guns - loss of credibility for both the provincial government and the RCMP.

Regards,

Betty Jane Louth
High River Driving School
403-652-1262
1-877-652-6866

CONFIDENTIAL: This message is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential information that is privileged and confidential. This information should not be distributed, copied or disclosed to anyone else. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

Page 56 redacted for the following reason:

17(1)

71893

Office of the Premier

From: Calgary Elbow [Calgary.Elbow@assembly.ab.ca]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2013 11:47 AM
To: Office of the Premier
Subject: FW: High River Gun Grab

From: Bob Campbell [mailto:bc46128@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, September 16, 2013 11:14 AM
To: Strathcona Sherwoodpark; Calgary Elbow
Subject: High River Gun Grab

Sq#	
Issues/ Action:	MAA
Rcvd	SEP 16 2013
C	Prev
Subject(s)	B
Logged to	

After pondering the police state tactics of the RCMP during the High River flooding, I must go on record and state my disgust with the actual gun grab and the reactions of the Alberta government.

Breaking into 1900 homes causing damage and targeting firearms is not something I would expect to happen in our country, let alone our province. Apparently other valuables were ignored such as passports and jewelry, but firearms in plain sight or not were seized. And some who own collectible and antique firearms were unhappy with the manner in which the RCMP "protected" them.

Bad enough. But the provincial government's response in shrugging the whole event off and minimizing it is shameful. Griffiths and his "f-bomb" is disgraceful behaviour for a minister.

My expectation of the provincial government is to protect the rights of Albertans, even from the feds, and to get to the bottom of this mess and make someone accountable for this fiasco.

George Orwell said "That rifle on the wall of the labourer's cottage or working class flat is the symbol of democracy. It is our job to see that it stays there."

So far the Alberta government has let us down in this matter. Any plans to fix it and make sure that this breach of democracy does not go unpunished?

--

Bob Campbell

bc46128@gmail.com

Pages 58 through 61 redacted for the following reasons:

17(1)

72075

Office of the Premier

From: 17(1)
Sent: Friday, September 27, 2013 9:20 AM
To: Office of the Premier; stony.plain@assembly.ab.ca
Subject: High River

Premier Redford,

I was astounded to hear your supposed surprise at the continuing anger over the seizure of guns in High River during the recent floods. You claimed the RCMP were doing their jobs. The job of the RCMP is NOT to unlawfully enter the homes of citizens without warrant, and seize their lawfully stored property, again without warrant. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees us not to be subject to such actions by our government, yet you vigorously defend those actions taken by the RCMP. The fact that you support and condone this unlawful gun grab, tells me you don't value the rights afforded the citizens by the charter. Alberta is not your own personal dictatorship. I fully expect you will be held responsible for the illegal actions of the RCMP in this matter, and I hope you are forced to admit your error. The sooner, the better.

17(1)
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Sup	
Index/	
Action	MHA
Rec'd	SEP 27 2013
By	
Subject	13
Project	

Pages 63 through 67 redacted for the following reasons:

17(1)

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: High River State of Emergency
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 1:34:59 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 1:05 PM
To: '17(1)'
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: High River State of Emergency

AR 4835

Dear 17(1)

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, forwarded me a copy of your September 24, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address your concerns and those you put forward on behalf of 17(1), about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a local state of emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the residents involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims' process. As a resident affected by a forced entry, your sister-in-law may wish to consult with the RCMP Civil Litigation Unit directly with respect to verification of the status of a claim filed and/or payment forthcoming. The contact at the RCMP is Ms. Lane Robbins, Claims Analyst at 780-341-3076.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address return of stored firearms, including communication to those affected Albertans as to how to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public

interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused from this disaster, regardless of whether they were caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims. Affected residents, who have been personally affected, may also wish to file a public complaint with regard to particular damages suffered, due to conduct of RCMP members. You may contact the CPC directly with the complaint so that it may be considered in addition to, but in the context of, the wider public interest investigation underway.

The CPC can be contacted by telephone or fax from anywhere in Canada: 1-800-665-6878, TTY: 1-866-432-5837 or through the web at: <http://www.cpc-cpp.gc.ca/cnt/srv/mac/index-eng.aspx>.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: High River State of Emergency
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 3:15:50 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 2:52 PM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: High River State of Emergency

AR 4834

Dear 17(1):

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, forwarded me a copy of your September 20, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address the concerns you put forward on behalf of 17(1), about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a local state of emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the residents involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims' process. As a resident affected by a forced entry, your brother Garth may wish to consult with the RCMP Civil Litigation Unit directly with respect to verification of the status of a claim filed and/or payment forthcoming. The contact at the RCMP is Ms. Lane Robbins, Claims Analyst at 780-341-3076.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address return of stored firearms, including communication to those affected Albertans as to how to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public

interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused from this disaster, regardless of whether they were caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims. Residents such as your brother, who have been personally affected, may also wish to file a public complaint with regard to particular damages suffered, due to conduct of RCMP members. You may contact the CPC directly with the complaint so that it may be considered in addition to, but in the context of, the wider public interest investigation underway.

The CPC can be contacted by telephone or fax from anywhere in Canada: 1-800-665-6878, TTY: 1-866-432-5837 or through the web at: <http://www.cpc-cpp.gc.ca/cnt/srv/mac/index-eng.aspx>.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: High River State of Emergency
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 1:34:51 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 1:26 PM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: High River State of Emergency

AR 4723

Dear 17(1) :

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, has forwarded me a copy of your September 8, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address your concern about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a local state of emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the residents involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims' process.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address return of stored firearms, including communication to those affected Albertans to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is

independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused from this disaster, regardless of whether they were caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: High River State of Emergency (RCMP)
Date: Thursday, December 05, 2013 2:06:22 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Thursday, December 05, 2013 12:13 PM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: High River State of Emergency (RCMP)

AR 5684

Dear 17(1)

The Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, has forwarded me a copy of your November 6, 2013 email regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) action arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. On review of your comments, the Premier has asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

The decision for RCMP to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a state of local emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the owners involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims process.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. The local RCMP detachment is still the first point of contact where people are to go with their estimates and/or receipts for work completed. The RCMP Civil Litigation Unit advised that a total of approximately 2,000 claims are in the queue for processing. As of November 21, 2013, 382 claims have been processed. Unfortunately, the process is experiencing delays, partially due to a shortage of contractors performing the estimate and construction work. To help address the backlog, the RCMP is also bringing in extra staff to process the claims. In all cases, whether a claim is approved fully, partially or denied, the RCMP Civil Litigation Unit will contact the claimant. As a resident affected by a forced entry, you may wish to consult with the RCMP Civil Litigation Unit directly with respect to verification of the status of your claim filed and/or payment forthcoming. The contact at the RCMP is Ms. Lane Robbins, Claims Analyst at 780-341-3076.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused from this disaster, regardless of whether they were caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims. It is the Town of High River that will provide payment to you and not the federal government. The town will then forward a full claim to the federal government for reimbursement. It is my understanding that the Town of High River will be posting the damage claim process on their website shortly.

Ministries across government have and continue to do their utmost to resolve the concerns raised by members of the High River community in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc. Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section
Staff Sergeant Shardlow, High River Detachment

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: High River State of Emergency
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 1:55:57 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 1:55 PM
To: [REDACTED] 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: High River State of Emergency

AR 4808

Dear [REDACTED] 17(1) :

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, forwarded me a copy of your September 19, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address your concern about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a local state of emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the residents involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims' process. As a resident affected by a forced entry it would be my recommendation that you consult with the RCMP Civil Litigation Unit directly with respect to verification of the status of your claim and payment. You can reach Ms. Lane Robbins, Claims Analyst at 780-341-3076.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address return of stored firearms, including communication to those affected Albertans to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country. Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is

independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused from this disaster, regardless of whether they were caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims. Residents, who have been personally affected, such as you, may wish to file a public complaint with regard to particular damages suffered, due to conduct of RCMP members. You may contact the CPC directly with the complaint so that it may be considered in addition to, but in the context of, the wider public interest investigation underway.

The CPC can be contacted by telephone or fax from anywhere in Canada: 1-800-665-6878, TTY: 1-866-432-5837 or through the web at: <http://www.cpc-cpp.gc.ca/cnt/srv/mac/index-eng.aspx>.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc. Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: High River State of Emergency
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 1:56:03 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Tuesday, October 15, 2013 1:43 PM
To: '17(1)'
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: High River State of Emergency

AR 4721

Dear 17(1):

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, forwarded me a copy of your September 6, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address your concern about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a local state of emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the residents involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims' process.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address return of stored firearms, including a communication plan for those affected Albertans to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory

requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused by this disaster, whether damage was caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: RCMP Gun Seizure
Date: Monday, January 20, 2014 12:58:59 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2014 11:59 AM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: RCMP Gun Seizure

Dear 17(1)

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, has forwarded me a copy of your email of December 10, 2013 regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) action arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your correspondence and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

The decision for RCMP to enter homes in High River was consistent with their duty to protect life during a state of local emergency. These actions were also consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations under such circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct this to happen. The RCMP and the owners involved will work to resolve any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims process.

RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interest of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return these weapons to their rightful owners. The RCMP officers involved were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers, along with other first responders, have been recognized across the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC as the federally legislated oversight body to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repairs caused by this disaster, regardless of whether they were caused by flood water or the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims. It is the responsibility of the Town of High River to provide payment to affected persons, not the Federal government. The town will then forward a full claim to the federal government for

reimbursement.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve the concerns raised by members of the High River community in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:05:12 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:55 AM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)

AR 5049

Dear 17(1):

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, has forwarded me a copy of your October 1, 2013 email regarding a report on the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) action arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. On review of your comments, the Premier has asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

The decision for RCMP to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a state of local emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the owners involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims process.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under these emergency circumstances. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address the return of stored firearms and to ensure a process is communicated to affected Albertans to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an independent agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP,

will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review. As of the date of this writing, a release date for the report by the CPC has not yet been confirmed; however, I anticipate that during winter/spring 2014 this report will be finalized.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused from this disaster, regardless of whether they were caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve the concerns raised by members of the High River community in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)
Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 12:05:19 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Wednesday, October 23, 2013 11:37 AM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier; 'Stony Plain'
Subject: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)

AR 4870

Dear 17(1):

My colleague, Mr. Ken Lemke, MLA for Stony Plain, has forwarded me a copy of your September 27, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) action arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. On review of your comments, Mr. Lemke has asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address your concern about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a state of local emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the owners involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims process.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under these emergency circumstances. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address the return of stored firearms and to ensure a process is communicated to affected Albertans to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an independent agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory

requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused from this disaster, regardless of whether they were caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve the concerns raised by members of the High River community in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ken Lemke, MLA, Stony Plain
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)
Date: Friday, October 04, 2013 4:05:52 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Friday, October 04, 2013 3:44 PM
To: 'bc46128@gmail.com'
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)

AR 4713

Dear Mr. Campbell:

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, has forwarded me a copy of your September 16, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. At this point in time, there is question as to the validity of the numbers assigned to the RCMP forced-entries into dwellings, with the media providing no public accounting for those entries involving lock smiths and/or building inspectors. We must exercise caution in relying on these numbers without proper verification. The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused from this disaster, regardless of whether they were caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims.

Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address the return of stored firearms, including communication to those affected Albertans to retrieve their property. Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that, while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory

requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve the concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns. Albertans expect to have clear communication with those responsible for ongoing disaster recovery efforts and the administration of those efforts.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)
Date: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:58:53 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:44 PM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)

AR 4576

Dear 17(1) :

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, forwarded me a copy of your September 6, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address your concern about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a local state of emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the residents involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims' process.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address return of stored firearms, including communication to those affected Albertans to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory

requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused by this disaster, whether damage was caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)
Date: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:58:45 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:45 PM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)

AR 4576

Dear 17(1)

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, forwarded me a copy of your September 6, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address your concern about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a local state of emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the residents involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims' process.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address return of stored firearms, including communication to those affected Albertans to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory

requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused by this disaster, whether damage was caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)
Date: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:58:40 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:47 PM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)

AR 4576

Dear 17(1) :

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, forwarded me a copy of your September 9, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address your concern about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a local state of emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the residents involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims' process.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address return of stored firearms, including a communication plan for those affected Albertans to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members'

actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused by this disaster, whether damage was caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)
Date: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:59:06 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:41 PM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)

AR 4576

Dear 17(1):

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, forwarded me a copy of your September 8, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address your concern about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a local state of emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the residents involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims' process.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address return of stored firearms, including communication to those affected Albertans to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country. Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP,

will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused by this disaster, whether damage was caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)
Date: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:59:12 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:40 PM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)

AR 4576

Dear 17(1):

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, forwarded me a copy of your September 7, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address your concern about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a local state of emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the residents involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims' process.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address return of stored firearms, including communication to those affected Albertans to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory

requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused by this disaster, whether damage was caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)
Date: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:58:59 PM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Thursday, October 03, 2013 12:43 PM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)

AR 4576

Dear 17(1):

Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, forwarded me a copy of your September 8, 2013 e-mail regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

To address your concern about RCMP entry into homes, the decision to enter homes was consistent with the duty to protect life during a local state of emergency. These actions are consistent with the local authority's powers and obligations in these circumstances. At no time did the Government of Alberta support, endorse or direct that this happen. The RCMP and the residents involved will work out any further issues that may have arisen from these actions through a systematic claims' process.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes. Early on, many citizens of Alberta voiced their concerns about the authority of the RCMP to take possession of firearms under this emergency situation. On June 27, 2013, I wrote to Deputy Commissioner McGowan, Commanding Officer of the Alberta RCMP, to ensure a plan and process was in place to address return of stored firearms, including communication to those affected Albertans to retrieve their property.

Since that time, RCMP officials have explained that while working under the direction of the Town of High River, some of their members took unsecured weapons into their care and control in the interests of public safety. They have since worked diligently to return them to their rightful owners. These officers were part of an extensive search and rescue effort at the peak of the floods that saved hundreds of lives in the community. The heroic efforts of these officers – along with other first responders – have been recognized around the country.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members'

actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused by this disaster, whether damage was caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier
Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair, Commission for Public Complaints Against the
RCMP
RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Office of the Premier](#)
To: [PREM Correspondence](#)
Subject: FW: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)
Date: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 9:11:22 AM

From: Ministry of Justice
Sent: Tuesday, November 26, 2013 4:07 PM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: State of Emergency in High River (RCMP)

AR 5548

Dear 17(1):

The Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier, forwarded me a copy of your November 5, 2013 email regarding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) actions arising from the state of emergency in High River, Alberta and your claim for damages. Premier Redford has reviewed your comments and asked that I respond in my role as Minister of Justice and Solicitor General.

On October 25, 2013, Alberta Justice and Solicitor General responded to an enquiry you placed through Alberta Municipal Affairs; specifically, at that time we provided contact information and instructions for following up on your claim with the Civil Litigation Unit at RCMP "K" Division. Alberta Justice and Solicitor General is not involved in the claim validation and payment process; however, we have been assured by the RCMP Civil Litigation Unit that all claim enquiries are being dealt with as quickly as possible. You are still encouraged to deal with the Civil Litigation Unit directly at 780-341-3070 and speak with the dedicated analyst, Ms. Sarah Shields, on the status of your particular claim.

As indicated, the Civil Litigation Unit advised that a total of approximately 1,400-1,800 claims are in the queue for processing. As of October 25, 2013, the Unit had worked their way through the first 350 of them where full payment for damages had been processed. The process is, unfortunately, slower than most complainants wish to experience. The detachment is still the first line of contact where people are to go with their estimates and/or receipts for work completed. A backlog exists, as well, due to a shortage of contractors performing the work. Given all factors, the process is experiencing delays. In all cases, whether a claim is approved fully, partially or denied, the RCMP Civil Litigation Unit will contact the claimant.

As a priority, the Government of Alberta has been working with both the RCMP and the Town of High River to address all issues related to this disaster and any resulting property damage arising out of forced entry into homes.

Given the public concern expressed, and as a matter of national public interest, on July 5, 2013, the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) initiated a public interest investigation into the conduct of RCMP members in High River, Alberta. The CPC is an agency created by Parliament to be responsible for ensuring that public complaints made about the conduct of RCMP members are examined fairly and impartially. The CPC is independent of the RCMP. The investigation will examine whether the RCMP members' actions complied with all appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and statutory

requirements. The Province of Alberta, as a contracting partner for the services of the RCMP, will work with the CPC, as the federally legislated oversight body, to ensure that sufficient accountability to Alberta and its citizen's results from this independent review.

The Government of Alberta recognizes the need to ensure that homeowners receive assistance for repair caused from this disaster, regardless of whether they were caused by flood water or by the emergency response efforts. As such, the province has worked with the RCMP and town officials to ensure there is a clear process to respond to damage claims. Affected residents, who have been personally affected, may also wish to file a public complaint with regard to particular damages suffered, due to conduct of RCMP members. You may contact the CPC directly with the complaint so that it may be considered in addition to, but in the context of, the wider public interest investigation underway.

The CPC can be contacted by telephone or fax from anywhere in Canada: 1-800-665-6878, TTY: 1-866-432-5837 or through the web at: <http://www.cpc-cpp.gc.ca/cnt/srv/mac/index-eng.aspx>.

Ministries across government have done, and continue to do, their utmost to resolve concerns raised by members of the High River community (and other communities) in a fair and efficient manner without infringing on the rights and abilities of the municipality that has both the authority and resources to address these concerns.

Thank you for contacting the Government of Alberta. I hope the information provided is helpful in addressing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Denis, QC
Minister

cc: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC, Premier

Mr. Ian McPhail, QC, Interim Chair
Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP

RCMP "K" Division, Professional Standards Section

Pages 102 through 104 redacted for the following reasons:

4(1)(q)

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Kim Armstrong - Exec Council](#)
To: [HS DGH; Darren Cunningham](#)
Cc: [Peter Watson - Exec Council](#); [Andre Corbould - Trans](#)
Subject: UPDATE re: PROVINCIAL STATE OF EMERGENCY - PLEASE READ
Date: Wednesday, July 03, 2013 2:26:22 PM

Good Afternoon.

Peter has asked that I forward Andre's thoughts in relation to the Provincial State of Emergency declaration.

Here they are:

I am very comfortable with saying now that I see no critical reason or need to extend the provincial state of emergency. I'm basing this on the following criteria:

- Firstly once we allow the Provincial state of emergency to expire there will still be a local state of emergency which will remain in place.
- The criteria for local and provincial states are identical and include the following:
(1) essential services restored (2) fire and emergency services available (3) access to community (4) Admin capacity and support (5) Overall assessment of whether community is "ready and able" and what further support is required.

The only criteria that differentiate and caused the Province to declare a state of emergency were criteria 4 and 5 above. We feel these are moving along nicely and are getting put into place well. They are aiming for a [10 Jul](#) date which gives them an additional 48 hours to get ready before expiration [on 12 Jul](#).

In the event something unforeseen happens and [on 12 July](#) they need continued support the fallback plan is to simply secondment of our folks to Town of High River to give them any missing capacity required to have the admin capacity and support as well as ensure the overall "ready and able" are good. So in this worst case scenario the day to day activity does not change its just that the Town is once again officially in control of the flood response but we provide all the capacity they need.

Peter has suggested that we brief Premier on this tomorrow during the call for final approval.

Please advise if any questions arise.

Thanks
k

Kimberly Armstrong
Government of Alberta
Deputy Secretary to Cabinet
Executive Council
780.935.0855
Sent from my iPad

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Page 107 redacted for the following reason:

17(1)

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

From: [Robyn Hanson](#)
To: [Chris Mack](#)
Subject: FW: Flood in High River
Date: Thursday, October 09, 2014 9:56:32 AM

Incoming (as discussed)

From: Office of the Premier
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 11:02 AM
To: PREM Correspondence
Subject: FW: Flood in High River

From: Doug Griffiths
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2013 11:00 AM
To: 17(1)
Cc: Office of the Premier
Subject: Flood in High River

Dear 17(1):

The Honourable Alison Redford, Premier, forwarded your September 21, 2013 email regarding the flood in High River. Premier Redford has reviewed your concerns and asked me, as Minister of Municipal Affairs responsible for emergency management, to respond on behalf of the Government of Alberta.

Local authorities in Alberta's municipalities are responsible for managing the first response to an emergency event. When an emergency event exceeds the capabilities of a municipal response or there is a significant threat to life and property, the Alberta Emergency Management Agency coordinates the Government of Alberta's support to the municipality by linking them with resources to help manage the event.

The flooding that took place in Alberta this summer was a devastating event unprecedented in our country. I am extremely proud of the way Alberta's emergency responders, governments, volunteers, and non-profit organizations, came together in such a coordinated and powerful way to lessen the impacts of this disaster and help prevent an even greater tragedy from happening.

As the Town of High River was in charge of the emergency response during the timeframe noted in your email, they are the appropriate authority to contact regarding the evacuation registration list. As you know, this was a very hectic and confusing time for first responders, administrators and residents alike given the scope, scale and sheer magnitude of the disaster. However, by copy of this letter to the town, they will be aware of your request for more details regarding the status of this list and sharing of information.

Sincerely,

Doug Griffiths

Executive Council FOIP Request 2014-G-0150

Minister of Municipal Affairs

Copy: Honourable Alison M. Redford, QC
Premier

His Worship Emile Blokland
Mayor, Town of High River

Pages 110 through 118 redacted for the following reasons:

17(1)



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6 Canada

OCT 30 2013

17(1)

Dear 17(1)

Thank you for your September 24, 2013, letter providing comments on various aspects of the Alberta government's response to the June flooding in High River. I am pleased to provide the following information in response to your specific questions.

My government is aware of the need to mitigate the potential for future flooding and we have undertaken significant work in this regard. In July, I appointed an advisory panel on community flood mitigation that will provide direct input into flood mitigation measures. On October 1, 2013, two engineering firms were retained by government to work in partnership with communities and Albertans to assess flood reduction projects and options, assess the overall impacts of each and submit their findings on reducing the impact of future floods. As well, on October 4, 2013, experts from national and international organizations were brought together to discuss new flood mitigation technologies and opportunities. In the case of High River, these groups will work closely together, and with officials from the Town of High River, to ensure the most viable options are put in place to mitigate future risks of flooding. A new Flood Mitigation Secretariat has been formed to ensure the implementation of flood mitigation strategies for impacted communities. We have taken steps to limit future development in the areas most likely to be impacted by flooding. We have also invested in erosion control to shore up our riverbanks. More detailed information about the provincial resources available to help Albertans affected by flooding and the actions we are taking can be found on our website at <http://alberta.ca/flood-mitigation.cfm>.

With respect to your comments regarding the RCMP's actions during the flood response, the decision to enter High River residents' homes was made under the State of Local Emergency declared by the Town of High River with the goal of protecting life during this critical search and rescue operation. My government is grateful for their presence and those of other first responders as their efforts helped save hundreds of lives during this disastrous flooding. Impacted residents can apply for funding under the Disaster Recovery Program to repair any damage caused by the RCMP's search and rescue efforts.

... / 2

- 2 -

The flooding in Southern Alberta was one of the worst natural disasters in Alberta's history with over 100,000 Albertans impacted. Municipalities, communities, emergency responders, law enforcement, government and the public, have done their very best to help impacted Albertans move forward.

Your comments and your support are greatly appreciated.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alison Redford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alison" and the last name "Redford" clearly distinguishable.

Alison M. Redford, QC

cc: Honourable Doug Griffiths
Minister of Municipal Affairs